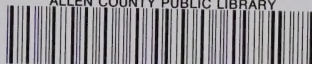


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Historical Sketch and Program for the Sesquicentennial Celebration



THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Wheeling and High Streets

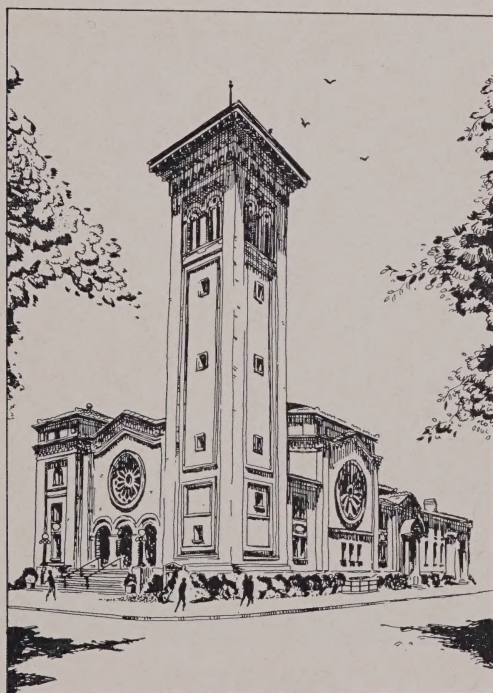
Lancaster, Ohio

1812

1962

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Historical Sketch and Program for the Sesquicentennial Celebration



THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

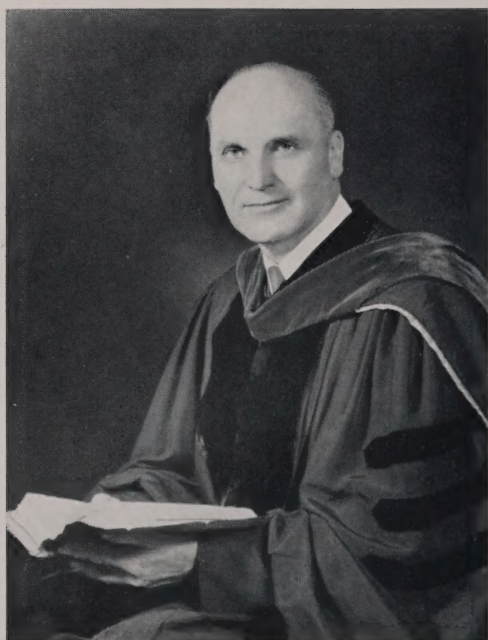
Wheeling and High Streets

Lancaster, Ohio

1812

1962

Allen County Public Library
Ft. Wayne, Indiana



DR. GEORGE W. HERD, Pastor

INTRODUCTION TO THIS PUBLICATION

This book was prepared for the Sesquicentennial Celebration of The First Methodist Church of Lancaster, Ohio (1812-1962), in as brief a form as possible, so it would not burden the reader; but, at the same time has been prepared with the thought in mind of bringing most of the essential history, in relation to the local church, into this small volume to help preserve it for future generations.

The Official Board, composed of about 80 people at this time, is being divided into committees to carry out the programs of this celebration year, so that each member will serve on some committee, and the programs will continue throughout the entire year.

We have not attempted to mention all the organizations of the church and the leaders in these areas. We have not even provided pictures of the six choirs that provide our music during this period, because we would not have known where to stop, had we taken one step in this direction.

While we are deeply indebted to all the committees that will serve during this year, we will make mention of only one, the Publication and Historical Committee. This committee was composed of Mrs. Ralph (Edna) Westenbarger, church secretary since January 1946, who has carried much of the responsibility of getting this book published; Mrs. E. G. (Vivienne) Clark, Director of Christian Education, who has helped provide much of the information for the current years and spent time in proofreading; and Mr. Charles R. Goslin.

I want to give special attention to Mr. Charles R. Goslin, who is a member of our church. Being a historian and naturalist, as well as a merchant in our community, he has labored for most of the past year in searching through all the sources of history available, and is actually responsible for practically all the work done in this historic record. We are also indebted to his wife, Stella, who compiled the material as he provided it and spent many long hours in bringing this material to its final form.

It is our hope that this record will prove valuable to those who will be carrying the responsibility of this church after all of this contemporary generation will have graduated into the ongoing school of life according to the plan of Almighty God.

Very sincerely yours,
DR. GEORGE W. HERD, *Pastor*

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH STAFF



Front Row (left to right)—Mrs. George W. (Mary) Herd, wife of the pastor; Mrs. Ralph L. (Edna) Westenbarger, church and financial secretary; Miss Dorothy L. Himes, pastor's parish assistant.

Back row (left to right)—Dr. George W. Herd, pastor of the church; Mrs. E. G. (Vivienne) Clark, Director of Christian Education; Mrs. Mary Orr, pastor's parish assistant; Mrs. Mark (Grace) Nigh, supervisor of the care and maintenance of the Rising House; Mr. Milton M. Binder, supervisor of the care and maintenance of the church building.

THE DEDICATION

This book is being dedicated to every man, woman and child who labored, prayed, and sacrificed in their own day and generation, from the late years of the eighteenth century to the present days of the twentieth century, to build and promote the cause of the Christian Church in this area and, to those who have carried the responsibility of The First Methodist Church in Lancaster, Ohio, through which we are privileged to work, serve and worship today.

A HISTORY
of
THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
of
Lancaster, Ohio
1799 to 1962

Compiled by
CHARLES R. GOSLIN



CHARLES R. GOSLIN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It has been my desire to make this history of The First Methodist Church as accurate as possible. Information from various sources and writings have been checked, one against the other. There are times when these sources do not coincide. I have to the best of my ability sought the right answer. If I am wrong, I accept the full responsibility for the error.

There are periods within the history of the church when there were no records available, being lost or destroyed; hence little could be written concerning those periods.

For fear that I might overlook some who have given much financial aid and service to the progress of the church, I have refrained from using names of the many supporters of the church, especially those of recent years. For these omissions I must apologize.

Although this is a sesquicentennial history, I believe I should give the story of Methodism from 1799, when it first arrived in Fairfield County, Ohio.

For help in compiling this history, I am grateful to many, especially to Dr. George W. Herd, who provided the information for the recent years; to Mrs. Ralph Westenbarger for permitting me to examine the church files; to Mrs. E. G. Clark who provided the information of the youth departments; to Herbert Turner and Roi DeLancy for their wealth of information on the early church history; to many others too numerous to mention, who have helped in assembling the information.

I am indeed grateful to the members of the historical committee, who have met many times, checked and edited the information and arranged the many details necessary for the publication of this history.

CHARLES R. GOSLIN

METHODISM CROSSES THE ATLANTIC

It was the year 1760, that a group of wayfarers landed in New York. Among them was a young carpenter, Philip Embury, who had been a local preacher in the Methodist societies of Ireland. Some five years after the landing, Mrs. Barbara Heck, a cousin of Philip Embury, assembled a congregation at the Embury home to listen to the preaching of Philip Embury. This was the first gathering of the Methodist Society in America.

It wasn't long before the congregation outgrew the house of the carpenter-preacher and an empty room within the British barracks was rented. Captain Thomas Webb of the King's service attended these meetings. Within a week he was assisting Philip Embury with the preaching. The empty room within the British barracks soon became too small to handle the crowds which came, so the Methodists of New York moved to a rigging-loft on William Street. From there they moved to the preaching house on John Street. This is considered to be the first Methodist Church on American soil. The John Street Church now occupies the lot where this first Methodist Church stood.

While Captain Webb, Philip Embury, and Barbara Heck were forming the first Methodist Society in New York, another Irish Methodist, Robert Strawbridge was building a log chapel in Frederick County, Maryland. It was to this edge of the Methodist territory that Francis Asbury, who landed in Philadelphia in 1771, was assigned. His assignment, the Norfolk, Virginia area.

During the Bristol Conference in 1771, John Wesley on the insistence of Captain Webb, made a call for more volunteers. Five preachers responded, two were chosen. One proved to be a failure. The one remaining young man not yet twenty-six years of age was Francis Asbury who landed in Philadelphia before the American Revolution, and was about the only Methodist preacher to remain in this country during the conflict. He was one of the few preachers to survive the suspicion of being a Tory.

On the day before Christmas 1784, the Conference met in the Lovely Lane Chapel in Baltimore, and on the motion of John Dickins, it was voted to form the Methodist Episcopal Church. On the following day, Christmas 1784, Dr. Coke, with the assistance of Whatcoat and Vasey, Francis Asbury was ordained a deacon in this newly formed church. The day following Christmas he

was ordained an elder. The next day he was made a bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

At the Methodist Episcopal Conference of 1787 in session at Petersburg, Virginia, the Ohio Circuit was organized. It may have been this interest in the Ohio Circuit which brought Edward Teal, an acquaintance of Bishop Francis Asbury and a class-leader in Baltimore County, Maryland, to what is now Fairfield County. It may have been through the recommendation of Bishop Asbury that James Quinn visited Edward Teal in the Ohio Country.

METHODISM COMES TO FAIRFIELD COUNTY

During the fall of 1799 a group of neighbors assembled in the two-roomed log cabin of Edward Teal on the banks of Pleasant Run just south of where the "Zane's Trace" crossed this stream. This was just three years after Ebenezer Zane, by an Act of Congress, opened this road between Wheeling, Virginia and Limestone, Kentucky. During the first days of the "Zane's Trace" this route would have been hardly more than a trail.

Edward Teal,⁽¹⁾ at whose cabin these pioneers assembled, had been a class leader in Baltimore, Maryland before coming to the banks of Pleasant Run when this was still the Northwest Territory.

Those neighbors who gathered at the Teal cabin on this autumn day of 1799 were Ishmael Dew and wife, Jesse Spurgeon and wife, Elijah Spurgeon and wife, Nimrod Bright and wife. They had come to join with Edward Teal and his wife and listen to the preaching of the Circuit Rider James Quinn, a Methodist traveling preacher. This was the first Methodist gathering within what is now Fairfield County, so the records indicate.

It may have been on the insistence of Bishop Asbury that James Quinn visited Edward Teal. At that time there were two Methodist Circuits in the Northwest Territory. One was the Muskingum-Hockhocking Circuit. The other was the Scioto Circuit. The circuit rider for this newly formed circuit was The Reverend Jesse Stoneman⁽²⁾; and James Quinn was his assistant.

(1) Stones which remain in the Cemetery . . . Section 1, Pleasant Township, Fairfield County where Edward Teal is buried, carry the name, Teel.

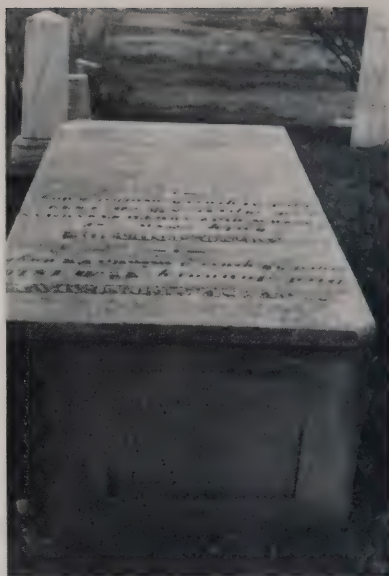
(2) Jesse Stoneman is buried in the Thornville, Ohio, Methodist Cemetery
(See picture next page)

The Teal cabin, one of the few cabins with more than one room, was a favorite stopping place for many of the early circuit riders. James Quinn, the first circuit rider to enter Fairfield County, became the son-in-law of Edward Teal and at one time⁽³⁾ may have owned land in Fairfield County. Bishop Asbury was a frequent visitor with Edward Teal.

Then in the year 1801, the Hockhocking circuit was formed with Joseph Chenowith as the first preacher to travel this circuit which included New Lancaster. Within this circuit there were 366 members of the Methodist Society. The Reverend Nathaniel B. Mills succeeded Joseph Chenowith, and in the year 1803 The Reverend James Quinn replaced Nathaniel B. Mills. Serving as Reverend Quinn's assistant in the Hockhocking Circuit was The Reverend Asa Shinn.

It was during this year, 1803, that the first quarterly meeting of the Hockhocking Circuit was held in the cabin of John Murphy in Richland township just west of what is now West Rushville. Bishop Asbury and Daniel Hitt preached on this occasion. This was the first of several visits which Bishop Asbury was to make to Fairfield County.

The actual date is not known, but it was about this time the first Methodist camp meeting was held in a small valley just north of West Rushville in Richland township, on or near the grounds now occupied by the present Stevenson Cemetery⁽⁴⁾. In those early days the Methodist Societies were rather reluctant toward establishing edifices or church buildings. When weather permitted the meetings were held in the open. During inclement weather



The grave of the Reverend Jesse Stone-
man, the first Circuit Rider to serve
what is now Fairfield County and Lan-
caster. This grave is in the Methodist
Cemetery at Thornville, Ohio.

⁽³⁾ Early tax records show James Quinn owning land in Pleasant Township of Fairfield County

⁽⁴⁾ Also called the Campground Cemetery.

the Methodists assembled at the cabins of various members to listen to the preaching of the circuit riders.

The first Methodist edifice believed to have been erected for that purpose within Fairfield County was a small log building known as the Richland Chapel. According to some historians, this log building stood at or near the site of the first camp meeting grounds of the Methodists near West Rushville. Bishop Asbury, according to his notes, preached at the Richland Chapel on September 2, 1805.

With the forming of the Fairfield Circuit in 1807, W. Patterson served as the traveling preacher. This was the year that Bishop Asbury again visited Fairfield County. In his journal, Bishop Asbury writes: On August 30, 1807 which was the Sabbath, he preached at the stand on the campground Hockhocking to 800 hearers. On the Tuesday following, he came to New Lancaster, and on September 3, 1807 preached in a school house in New Lancaster. With The Reverend Ralph Letspiech, a deeply pious circuit rider serving the Fairfield Circuit, Bishop Francis Asbury returned again to Lancaster on September 4, 1809 when he spoke in the elegant court house. At that time the court house stood at the intersection of Main and North Broad Streets.

The earthquake of 1811 may have increased the interest in religion. The Reverend James Finley, who was admitted on trial to the Western Conference on September 30, 1809, was preaching at Putnam on the Muskingum River when the first tremors occurred. These tremors, which began on February 12, 1811, increased in intensity until February 16 when the most severe shocks took place. These tremors frightened many, especially those with no interest in religion. Before the earth tremors, circuit rider James Finley's audiences were rather small.



The Fairfield County Court House which once stood in Lancaster at the intersection of Main and Broad Streets, where Bishop Francis Asbury spoke on September 4, 1809.

Following the earthquake large crowds became interested in what he had to tell them. Before the year was out, there were within the Western Conference 113 preachers and 50,741 members. In the fall of that year Bishop Asbury returned again to Fairfield County to preach at Edward Teal's cabin on September 11th. Bishop Asbury may have been on his way to the Western Conference to be held in October 1811 at Cincinnati.

THE EARLY DAYS OF THE METHODIST SOCIETY IN LANCASTER

At the final session of the Western Conference held in Cincinnati on October 1, 1811, the Fairfield Circuit with definite boundaries was established. This circuit, established by the conference, extended from Putnam on the Muskingum River to ten miles west of Lancaster. The headwaters of the Licking River was the north boundary; the falls of the Hockhocking at Logan, the south boundary. It was during this conference The Reverend James Finley was admitted into full connection and assigned to the Fairfield Circuit.

In the spring of 1812 circuit rider James B. Finley, with the aid of Nimrod Bright and Jesse Spurgeon, who were licensed exhorters, organized the first Methodist Class in Lancaster. There had been other Methodist gatherings in Lancaster, before this time, but this is believed to be the first with a definite organization, and the beginning of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Lancaster. This first class, composed of ten members, included Jacob D. Detrich and wife, Peter Reber, Sarah Reber, Christian Weaver, Elizabeth Weaver, George Canode, Mary Canode, Thomas Orr and wife.

Bishop Asbury was again to visit with Edward Teal (now at the age of 77), whom he had known for 40 years. This was on Sunday, September 20, 1812. On Tuesday following, Bishop Asbury passed through New Lancaster to visit Jesse Spurgeon. It is very probable that Asbury was enroute to the Conference at Chillicothe when he made these visits.

During this conference held in Chillicothe in October of 1812, the Ohio Conference was formed and the Reverend James B. Finley closed his important work in Lancaster and the Fairfield Circuit. The Reverend William Lambden was selected to replace

him. Archibold McElroy followed William Lambden, and he in turn, was succeeded by The Reverend Charles Waddle in 1814.

The following year, 1815, the fourth annual Ohio Conference was held September 18th at Lebanon, Ohio. The Reverend Michael Ellis was selected to serve the Fairfield Station, one of the 67 stations at that time within the Ohio Conference. This was to be Bishop Asbury's last conference.

It was about this time that the first Methodist Meeting House or Methodist Church was erected in Lancaster. Conflicting records make the first date for the establishment of a Methodist Church rather confusing. There are several dates recorded concerning the year of erection of the church; also, the kind of church building. In the records at the Fairfield County Court House there was dedicated to the town of Lancaster on September 13, 1814, by Emanuel Carpenter, three lots; numbers 84, 85, and 86; situated on the east side of Jackson Street⁽¹⁾ for the use of religious groups and for burying grounds. Lot 84 was the site of the first Methodist Episcopal Church according to the historical records.

Then, on the 29th of December 1816, Emanuel Carpenter, Jr. and his wife Salley gave to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, for the sum of one dollar, a plot of land in that part of the Town of Lancaster, laid out recently by Emanuel Carpenter, Jr. and Henry Shellenberger and known by number 84 on the plot that was dedicated to the Town of Lancaster in 1814. This lot 84 was given the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church with the stipulation that they build or cause to build there, a house or place of divine worship and for the purpose of a burying ground. The trustees who signed this indenture and accepted this tract of land (where the Masonic Temple now stands) were Daniel Arnold, Benjamin Smith, Sr., Peter Reber, Nimrod Bright⁽²⁾, Jesse Spurgeon⁽³⁾, Jacob Claypole, and James S. Collins.

According to this indenture, Salley Carpenter did not place her seal and mark until January 8, 1817. So it would seem unlikely that the first Methodist Episcopal Church was erected on this

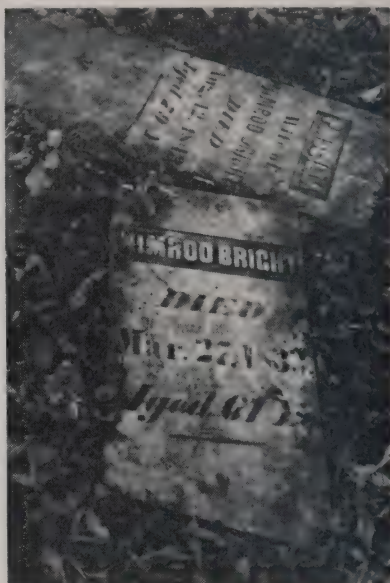
(1) High Street in Lancaster was once known as Jackson Street south of Chestnut Street.

(2) Nimrod Bright, one of the first local preachers, is buried in the Apple-gate Cemetery, three miles east of Lancaster. (*See picture next page*)

(3) Signed "Jepe" Spurgeon on the deed record. Jesse Spurgeon was also one of the first preachers in Fairfield County. According to the 1806 tax records, he lived in Hocking Township.

site before 1817. The one conflicting reference to this date is the 1816 Kilbourn Gazetteer published at Columbus, Ohio, in that year, and which mentions a Methodist meeting house in Lancaster, but does not give its location.

In this first church erected on this site (either a small frame or a brick edifice with a balcony⁽⁴⁾, The Reverend James Quinn preached the first service in the year 1817, using a carpenter's bench as the pulpit. The presence of a carpenter's bench would indicate the building of this church was in the final stages of construction or had just been completed. If the construction of this church did not start until 1817, it was presumably a frame church. The time interval would have not been enough to permit a brick structure to be built as is mentioned by one historian.



The grave of Nimrod Bright, one of the members of the first Methodist Society in Fairfield County and a local preacher. This grave is in the Applegate Cemetery in Section 4, Berne Township, and east of Lancaster.

⁽⁴⁾ A two-story brick church with a gallery, according to A. A. Graham's *"History of Fairfield County"*.

THE YEARS OF THE FIRST CHURCH

At the time when Reverend Quinn preached this first sermon in the church just recently erected by the Methodist Episcopal Society of Lancaster, the Fairfield Circuit, of which Lancaster was a part, was considered to be the oldest and best within the Conference. Within the Fairfield Circuit the Methodists were very strong. There were 25 to 30 appointments, much wealth and refinement.

No doubt the Fairfield Circuit held a high place in the Ohio Conference which met August 7, 1818, at Steubenville with The Reverend Charles Waddle as the presiding elder. At this conference, The Reverends Sadosa Bacon and Peter Stephens were

chosen to serve the Fairfield Circuit. It is very likely these two circuit riders served, by alternate visits, the 90 members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Lancaster.

Much took place at the next Ohio Conference which opened on August 7, 1819, at Cincinnati, Ohio. At this conference the Lancaster District was formed and the first plans were made for the formation of a Foreign Missionary Society under the care of the Ohio Conference. Throughout the years 1818 and 1819, between the conference at Steubenville and at Cincinnati, there was an intensive revival of Methodism. Many of the revivals were conducted in outdoor camp meetings. It seems that outdoor meetings rather than meetings within churches were stressed at this time.

During the following year 1820, there was disruption within the Lancaster Station. This was brought about by the Methodists who were not in favor of bishops. Also, abolition of slavery may have entered into this dispute. Since the Conference of 1816, slavery had been an issue within the Methodist Episcopal Society. At this 1816 Conference a recommendation was made, condemning preachers who bought or sold slaves except for humane purposes.

During this same period Freemasonry became an issue. Preachers and members of the Methodist Society were condemned for becoming Masons or associating with them. Even at this early date, Freemasonry held a prominent place in the lives of many Lancaster residents.

During the year of disruption, Charles Waddle was the presiding elder and The Reverends Abner Gough and Henry Matthews the traveling preachers. It could not be confirmed that either Gough or Matthews served Lancaster during the disruption. The first definitely known preacher to serve the newly formed Lancaster Station was The Reverend Thomas A. Morris, D.D. His early training was in the Baptist Church, but at the age of 19 became a Methodist. He was licensed to preach in 1814 and admitted to the Ohio Conference in 1816. Following his admission into the Ohio Conference, his health suffered greatly so he was assigned to the Lancaster Station which at that time included 65 members. His salary was \$185.00 for the year.

The Reverend Thomas Morris was followed by James Carper who was assigned to Lancaster during the conference which met

September 6, 1821 at Lebanon. It was at this conference the Wyandotte Indian Mission became the important topic of the Methodist Episcopal Society and was to become the first Foreign Missionary work of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

With Bishops McKendree and George presiding at the 1822 Conference held in Marietta, The Reverends James Gilruth and Isaac C. Hunter were assigned to the Fairfield Station. Which served Lancaster is not recorded; it could be that each served on alternate dates. Both Bishop McKendree and Bishop George had preached on previous dates in Lancaster.

The twelfth session of the Ohio Conference was held in Urbana, Ohio, with the opening date September 3, 1823. It was at this conference The Reverend James B. Finley, who once served Lancaster as the minister, was assigned to the Wyandotte Indian Mission and so became the first Methodist Missionary.

The Reverend Charles Waddle was appointed to the Lancaster Station at the Ohio Conference held during 1824 in Zanesville. Some differences may have risen during this pastorate, for, at the conference held in Hillsboro in 1826, Charles Waddle was removed from the Conference. The Reverend James Quinn was returned to Lancaster to assist with the affairs during the years 1825 and 1826, the period when LeRoy Swormstedt served as the minister for the Fairfield District. At the conference of 1826 Michael Drumm of the Lancaster District was recommended for elders orders, but for some reason was not elected.

At the Cincinnati Conference of 1827, James Laws and Gilbert Blue were assigned to the Fairfield District. Then, during the 1828 Ohio Conference at Chillicothe the Reverend Young, either Jacob or William Young, was appointed to this district. It was during the 1828 Conference that difference of opinion disrupted the proceedings and led to the withdrawal of a number of people from the Methodist Episcopal Church to join the Methodist Protestant Church which was forming in Baltimore, Maryland. The dispute was largely over the extent of the authority of the bishop and the admission of laymen to the Annual Conference. The new group would call their presiding officer a Presiding Elder (this was later changed to Superintendent, and finally to General Superintendent for the top presiding officer). New church buildings were being constructed under the name Methodist Protestant. This group was, as time moved along, to become an

important branch of the Methodist movement started by John Wesley.

The following year Zacharial Connell and H. S. Fernandez were appointed ministers for the Fairfield Circuit, of which the Lancaster Station was a part. In 1830⁽¹⁾ the Rushville Circuit was formed and this resulted in Lancaster becoming a half station and sharing their minister. For the next several years it is rather indefinite as to who served the Lancaster half station. The names of the ministers are known but the years which they served are not indicated. If they served according to the mention of their names in the dedicatory services of 1907, then the Reverend William H. Lawder served in 1831; Levi White in 1832; the Reverend W. T. Snow in 1833, and John J. Brice in 1834. In 1835, Charles W. Swain would have become the minister, the Reverend William T. Hand serving in 1836 and Charles Baldwin in 1837. Then, in 1838 Lancaster was to return to a full station.

It was during this period, December 7, 1835 to be exact, that the Act of Incorporation of the Methodist Protestant Church of the Town of Lancaster was signed and the Lancaster Methodist Protestant Station was formed. The Reverend Jacob Meyers was selected as the minister for the 41 members of this station. An interesting sidelight of these incorporation papers was that only the male members of this society were permitted to make decisions.

Dissatisfaction was to take place within the Methodist Protestant Society of Lancaster, as had happened within the Methodist Episcopal Society some years previously. Enof Woodward, chairman of the committee which formed the Preamble and Resolutions of the Methodist Protestant Society of Lancaster, and who later became their minister, resigned from the Society and returned to the Methodist Episcopal Church in January 1839. The records show, that during the following years, many were dropped from the rolls of the Methodist Protestant Church. Those who remained Methodist became members of the Methodist Episcopal Society.

The Methodist Protestant Church, which at one time had in its membership many of the influential citizens of Lancaster, lost many of its members through death and resignation. In their church records of 1856, a list of the remaining members was given

(1) According to the Ministerial Record of Marshes Chapel, the Rushville Circuit was formed in 1826.

under the caption "Remains of the wreck of the Methodist Protestant Church".

Soon after this date, 1856, they no longer requested a minister and their brick church on the north side of Walnut Street between Broad and Columbus Streets became vacant. The church building was sold to the School Board which used the building as a school for a few years before selling it to "The Old School Baptists" for their church purposes.

The remaining members of the Methodist Protestant Society of Lancaster, after defraying the liabilities of the Society, divided the balance among the original members. A suit was brought in the Common Pleas Court by the Ohio Protestant Conference for possession of the church property. The case was finally decided after several terms of court, in favor of the local society. Those who remained Methodists probably became affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church of Lancaster.

Shortly after the incorporation of the Methodist Protestant Church in 1836 the Lancaster Methodist Episcopal Society was to return again to a full station. With the return of Lancaster to a full station in 1838, the Methodists could boast of 72,036 members, 294 traveling preachers and 490 churches in Ohio. Methodists were far more numerous in Ohio than any other Christian group and the membership of the Lancaster Circuit could boast of 919 members. James Reed was the minister appointed to serve this newly formed Lancaster Station. The return of Lancaster to a full station increased the enthusiasm of the Lancaster Society and plans were made for the erection of a new church on their lot on South High Street.

THE ERA OF THE SECOND CHURCH

It was during the pastorate of James Reed that plans were made and construction started on the two story brick church that was to replace the first Methodist Episcopal Church erected on the land received from Emanuel Carpenter, Jr. Construction on this church began in the spring of 1838. By Christmas time of that year the basement was ready, so the Christmas services of 1838 were held in this basement. The basement continued to be used as a place of worship until the summer of 1843. This would indicate that, to erect this new church, the first church was torn down. Where the Methodists held their worship services during

the building of the church basement was not recorded.

Before the erection of the first church, the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church met at least once in the Court House which stood at the intersection of Main and Broad Streets. They may have returned to this Court House for their worship services while the construction of the foundation and basement was in progress. It was quite an undertaking to erect such a magnificent church in those days.

During the following year 1839, David Cowden built the walls of this new brick church. The bricks for the construction probably came from the Cowden brickyard near the base of Mount Pleasant in the vicinity of the present Lake Street. With the removal of clay for the making of brick, a pond formed in the depression and was present for many years.

To obtain nails required for the construction of this church, Daniel DeVore took a wagon load of pottery to Rushville where he traded his wagon of wares for the much needed nails. The Reverend Thomas Howard Hall, William Cassel⁽¹⁾, and Father Sherrick built the pews.



The church on South High Street which served the Methodist Episcopal congregation of Lancaster from 1843 to 1907. In later years, and until destroyed by fire in December 1944, it was the property of the Lancaster Masonic Bodies.

The Reverend Charles R. Lowell was appointed minister for the Lancaster Station in the fall of 1839. The basement of the new church continued to serve as the place of worship, and did so until 1843.

The first Quarterly Conference of the Lancaster Station was held in December 1840. At this conference, Henry Baker was selected to serve as Pastor for the Methodist Episcopal Church.

During the period from 1840 until the turn of the century the pastors were selected in the late fall of the year, so

(1) William Cassel, also spelled Castle, was a carpenter by trade and did the inside work of many fine homes in Lancaster.

they served only a short time during the year they were selected. Their actual service given to the churches was the year following their appointments. The Reverend William R. Anderson, selected in 1841, replaced the Reverend Henry Baker as the minister of the Lancaster Station.

Serving the congregation for the years 1842 and 1843 was the Reverend William P. Strickland, and during his pastorate the audience chamber of the new church was finished for public use. To finish the interior of this church, which was accomplished in 1843, Darius Tallmadge, Jacob Claypool, M. Z. Kreider, Samuel Maccracken, and George Coffman each contributed \$200.00 which was quite a sum of money in those days. By spring of 1844 the new church on South High was completed and ready for dedication. Bishop Bascom was to have performed this service but was unable to be present, so the Reverend Joseph M. Trimble, D.D., who was enroute to the General Conference, dedicated the Church in May 1844.

Doctor Trimble was to become one of the most distinguished ministers of Methodism. The Reverend William Strickland, who was the minister of the Lancaster Methodist Episcopal Church at the time of the dedication, was the author of the "*Autobiography of Reverend James Finley*", who was an early minister of the Methodist Episcopal Society of Lancaster.

For the next two years, 1844-45, Randolph S. Foster, who later became a bishop, served the Lancaster Methodist Episcopal congregation.

With the completion of the church, very little information could be gathered for the years that followed. Either the records of the church became destroyed or lost, or records were not deemed necessary. None could be found for this period, especially the Civil War Era. Only the names of the ministers could be learned.

The years of 1844 to 1848 were not peaceful or harmonious for the Conference. Few sympathized with the Methodist South. Discord resulted at the conference held in Cincinnati. There was a decrease in membership. This loss of membership may have carried to the Lancaster Church. There were many in Fairfield County who were not in favor of abolition of slavery and some of these may have been members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Reverend M. Dustin was assigned to Lancaster in the fall of 1846. He was replaced in 1847 by the Reverend Granville Moody who served the Methodist Episcopal Church until the fall of 1848. It was during the year 1847 that the Reverend James Quinn, the first Methodist Episcopal circuit rider to serve Fairfield County, passed away. He was buried in the Auburn Cemetery of Highland County, Ohio. At this same time a former minister of the Lancaster Methodist Church, the Reverend James Finley, was serving as the Chaplain at the Ohio State Penitentiary, having been appointed to this post in 1846.

During the 1849-50 period, William Sutherland was appointed as the minister. At this time, Sarah A. Maccracken served as the Sunday School Superintendent. This would indicate the Lancaster Methodist Episcopal Church recognized early the rights of women to responsible positions within the church. During the pastorate of William Sutherland, H. G. Trout, who was a class leader in the church, became a member of the Quarterly Conference for the first time. During the same year, Philip Rising, also a class leader, became an official member. For more than a half century these men were to serve the Methodist Episcopal Church of Lancaster in many capacities.

In the fall of 1850 the Reverend Moses Smith replaced William Sutherland as pastor. Following Moses Smith was the Reverend Ancel Brooks who occupied the pulpit for two years. In the autumn of 1853, N. Westerman was assigned to Lancaster. He too, served for two years. James H. Jamison⁽²⁾ became the minister in 1854 and was replaced in August of 1857 by the Reverend Ezra M. Boring who served for one year.

With the annual salary of six hundred dollars, the Reverend Joseph H. Creighton served the church as pastor for the years 1857 and 1858. The following year William Porter⁽³⁾ was the minister, his salary for the year was \$550.00. E. C. Felton served the church as its minister for the next two years at a salary of \$600.00 and \$650.00, an advance in the yearly salary for his second year. It was during Pastor Felton's second year, 1861, the semicentennial anniversary of the Ohio Conference was held in Lancaster on the sixteenth of September.

During the next two years, 1862 and 1863, his years begin-

(2) Also spelled Jameson in some records

(3) Given as William Foster in the 1900 church directory

ning in the fall. the Reverend C. A. Vananda served as the minister. These were Civil War years, but the church found the means to advance his salary to \$700.00. The Reverend Thomas H. Phillips replaced Vananda and served the Lancaster Methodists until September 1866 with the annual salary of one thousand dollars.

The next minister to fill the pulpit was L. H. Taft, who was the first minister to receive a salary of \$100.00 per month. This continued to be the salary of the Methodist Episcopal ministers of Lancaster until the year 1874. In those days this would have been a very substantial salary. A new chapel had been erected at the Reform School, now known as the Boys' Industrial School, and the Reverend L. Taft was the principal speaker at the dedication services which took place April 18, 1867.

During February 1868 the Lancaster Methodist Episcopal Church celebrated the Centennial Anniversary of the building of the first Methodist Church in America, the Johns Street M. E. Church in New York City. For this celebration, a historical sketch of the Lancaster Methodist Episcopal Church was prepared by the Reverend L. Taft and Mr. Silas Grey in commemoration of this anniversary. Trustees of the church at the time of this celebration were John Pierce, William H. Shutt, David Foster, Jesse Parsons, George L. Eckert, Henry Carter, John C. Flood, D. Jewell, and Thomas Webster. The Reverend B. N. Spahr, who was admitted into the Ohio Conference on trial twenty years before, was the presiding elder at this celebration. In the fall of that year he was to become the minister of the Lancaster Church, serving in this capacity for two years.

In the year 1869 the negro Methodists of Lancaster started the construction of a church just south of the Methodist Episcopal Church on land given to them for this purpose by Emanuel Carpenter, Jr. With the completion of the structure, the first floor was used for a school, the upstairs for church services. The present A. M. E. Church is the original church which has been extensively remodeled and moved so as to face Walnut Street. The building formerly faced High Street. The remodeling of this church took place in 1914 and it still serves the A. M. E. congregation.

Succeeding the Reverend B. N. Spahr to the pulpit of the Methodist Episcopal Church was the Reverend T. R. Taylor. He too, served in this capacity for two years. In the fall of 1872 Joseph H. Creighton returned to the Lancaster Church to serve as their

minister for another year. He had previously served as the pastor of this church during 1856 and 1857.

A small camp meeting was held in August 1872 near Logan. During the next summer many Methodists gathered on a tract of timberland on the George Smith farm near the banks of the Hocking River two miles south of Logan. This is considered to have been the first officially held meeting of the Lancaster Campground Association. The road to this first campground was the narrow towpath of the Hocking Valley Canal. Methodists came from many miles to attend this camp meeting which opened during the summer of 1873. This proved successful, so on the first of August 1874 the second Methodist Camp Meeting Session opened along the banks of the Hocking River. Heavy rains during the camp meeting caused the Hocking River to overflow its banks and flood the camp meeting site. Many took sick and were compelled to leave.

A conference was held at Newark in the fall of 1874 following this disaster and a new site was selected for these religious outdoor gatherings. The new site selected was the John Mason land south of Carroll and adjoining the Summit Methodist Church. This location was selected because of its proximity to the Hocking Valley Canal. John Mason died before a lease could be obtained for the land; so in 1877 land was leased, then later bought, from Newton Peters. This land formed the nucleus for our present Lancaster Camp Meeting Grounds.

The Reverend T. W. Stanley, who served the Lancaster Methodist Episcopal Church for three years with an annual salary of \$1,350.00, took an active part in these early camp meetings which at this time was an important part in the religion of the Methodist Episcopal Society. In the fall of 1877 the Reverend J. T. Miller replaced the Reverend T. W. Stanley and served for three years, to be recalled again ten years later to serve another three years at an annual salary of \$1,300.00; fifty dollars less than during his previous pastorate.

During the time J. T. Miller was absent from the pulpit of the Lancaster Methodist Episcopal Church, the ministers were Orville J. Nave, William P. McLaughlin and J. M. Weir. For some reason, during his second year of service to the Lancaster Church, Reverend Nave's annual salary was reduced one-hundred dollars. This also happened to William P. McLaughlin, who in

1882 and 1883, received an annual salary of \$1,350.00, then in 1884 his salary was reduced to \$1,200.00. For the two years which the Reverend J. M. Weir occupied the pulpit, his salary was \$1,200.00. Following the Reverend J. T. Miller's return to the pastorate, the Reverend John W. Dillon served from 1890 to 1894, the first minister with more than three years continuous service. During this service of five years, John W. Dillon's salary was increased \$100.00 during his third and fourth years, then reduced again to his original salary of \$1,300.00 during his fifth and last year.

It was during the fourth year of the pastorate of Reverend Dillon, the year 1893, that the name of the Ohio Conference Camp Meeting of the Methodist Episcopal Church was changed to the Lancaster Camp Meeting of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Ohio Conference may have decided to abandon the sponsoring of these camp meeting programs.

In 1895 the Reverend William L. Slutz, D.D. was appointed as pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church and served two years before being appointed as the Presiding Elder of the Lancaster Station, in which capacity he served for a number of years. During his term as Presiding Elder, he continued to live in Lancaster in his home on Wheeling Hill, now known as the Dallow home. While residing in Lancaster, Doctor Slutz married Ella E. Whiley, a Lancaster resident. The first wife of Dr. Slutz had passed away some years previous to his pastorate in Lancaster.

The home of Doctor Slutz was not the first Methodist parsonage on Wheeling Hill. Some years previously the Reverend J. T. Miller lived on the south side of Wheeling Street, three doors east of the St. John's Church, which at that time would have been just east of the alley, the present home of Bruce Guthrie.

With the appointment of Dr. Slutz as the Presiding Elder, Charles C. Elson was called to fill the vacancy, coming to Lancaster from Newark. The Reverend Charles C. Elson was not a stranger to Fairfield County. He was born near Roseville and attended one term of school at the Fairfield Union Academy in Pleasantville. In 1888 he graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University, and in the same year joined the Ohio Conference.

At the turn of the century, the fourth year of Charles C. Elson's ten years of service to the Lancaster Methodist Episcopal Church, the trustees of the church were: F. C. Whiley, J. A. Heim,

J. S. Sites, H. B. Peters, J. T. Busby, C. C. Pickering, H. C. Drinkle, C. H. Towsen, and Jesse Outcalt. The Stewards were: P. Rising, H. G. Trout, E. Burgess, James T. Pickering, J. C. Hart, John E. Miller, William M. Leiby, W. E. Ditto, George H. Miller, D. B. Nourse, W. H. Longenecker, Robinson Whiley, and W. B. Maccracken, with Philip Rising the District Steward and J. T. Pickering the Recording Steward. W. E. Gray was President of the Epworth League, and Miss Ella Hite its Vice-President. Superintendent of the Sunday School was W. H. Radebaugh; George Miller, the assistant. C. C. Pickering was the Secretary and Mary Thomas, the treasurer of the Sunday School.

THE NEW CHURCH ON NORTH HIGH STREET

A new church was the desire of the members of the Lancaster Methodist Episcopal Church. Their church on South High Street had been in use since 1843 and was becoming inadequate. The Methodists west of the Hocking River had just completed a new church at the corner of Sixth and Garfield Avenues, the year 1902, and named it the Sixth Avenue Methodist Church, a name that is still retained.

The Stutson residence on the northwest corner of High and Wheeling Streets was available. This corner was selected for the site for the new church. The Stutson residence stood on lot number sixteen in square twelve of the Original Town of Lancaster, laid out in the fall of 1800 by the Zanes. The plat of the Original Town of Lancaster was divided into squares, the squares numbered from north to south, then south to north. Square number one would be the square at the northwest corner of Columbus and Mulberry Streets. The alley between Union and Mulberry Streets was the north boundary, Forest Rose Avenue the approximate west boundary.

The deed to the land for this new church was signed by Miss Nellie Stutson on April 1, 1904, and transferred to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the sum of \$5,333.33. The names of the Trustees appearing on this deed are John A. Heim, John T. Busby, Frederick C. Whiley, Jesse P. Outcalt, William Davidson, Joseph S. Sites, Charles C. Pickering, Henry B. Peters and Henry C. Drinkle⁽¹⁾.

(1) The order in which the names appeared on the recording of the deed.

Those on the building committee for the new church were: William M. Leiby, Horatio G. Trout, Joseph S. Sites, Henry B. Peters, and James T. Pickering. Architects for this new church were Richards, McCarty and Bulford of Columbus, Ohio. The general contractor was the John Rouser Company of Dayton. Mowry and Darbyshire did the brick work. Construction of the new church was underway early in the year of 1905. On October 10, 1905, the cornerstone laying ceremony took place. At this cornerstone ceremony, Dr. Herbert Welch, President of the Ohio Wesleyan University was the speaker. By late summer of 1907 the construction of this new church had been completed.

With the new church at the corner of Wheeling and High Streets receiving the finishing touches of the construction, the Trustees met on June 18, 1907, for the purpose of selling their church on South High Street, and with the proceeds of this sale, make a payment on the new church. Application for permission to sell the South High Street Church was filed in the Common Pleas Court on June 24, 1907. The petition was heard on August 10, 1907, and permission to sell the church was granted on August 12, 1907. Two days after permission was granted for the sale of the old church, the Trustees of the First Methodist Episcopal Church⁽²⁾ conveyed the property to the Lancaster Masonic Bodies for the sum of \$6,000.00.

This former Methodist Church was dedicated as a Masonic Temple in July 1908, and was used by the Lancaster Masons until December 1944 when it was destroyed by fire.

With the completion of the new church, the last service in the Church on South High Street was held September 8, 1907. On the following Sunday the dedication of the new church took place. At this dedication, Sunday, September 15, 1907, the Dr. Thomas C. Iliff of Denver delivered the first sermon. Others taking part in the dedicatory service were Bishop Luther B. Wilson, D.D., Presiding Elder W. D. Cherington, D.D., and the Church Pastor, Charles C. Elson.

This was a long dedicatory service. At eleven o'clock on this Sunday evening of September 15, 1907, the last dollar to insure the payment of the debt was subscribed and the formal dedication

² The First Methodist Episcopal Church appears on the records for the first time. Cornerstone also inscribed First M. E. Church.

of the church building was completed just before midnight. The total cost of the building, including the pipe organ was \$80,210.70. The first baptism in the new church was Elizabeth Stutson, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Stutson, the Reverend W. D. Cherington, D.D. performing the ceremony and Pastor Charles C. Elson assisting.

During the late fall of the dedication year the Reverend Harry B. Lewis replaced Charles C. Elson as the minister. In 1910 the Reverend Charles Bertram Pyle became the pastor. During the Quarterly Conference held in Lancaster on October 9, 1911, a resolution was passed, authorizing the one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Methodism in Lancaster, the celebration to be held during 1912.

Assigned to cooperate with Pastor C. B. Pyle in the planning of the celebration were James T. Pickering, Joseph S. Sites and Amos Thomas. This centennial celebration, which continued from Sunday to Sunday, took place during January of 1912.

Bishop William Anderson of Chattanooga, Tennessee, preached at the 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. services on January 14, the first Sunday of the celebration. Professor Samuel R. Gaines of Columbus, Ohio, presented a vesper recital at 3 p.m. on that Sunday. Monday evening, Bishop Anderson gave his famous lecture "*The Fountain of Youth*", and on Wednesday evening there were homecoming addresses of former pastors and superintendents. Thursday, the Reverend Dr. Hiram Kellogg of the Broad Street M. E. Church of Columbus, Ohio, spoke. The Columbus Oratoric Society presented a concert on Friday evening. During the final day of the celebration, Sunday, January 21, Bishop David H. Moore of Cincinnati conducted the 10 a.m. and the 7 p.m. services. The afternoon organ recital was presented by Miss Jessie Crane of Columbus.

The Reverend Homer P. Ivey replaced C. B. Pyle, but served only a part of the year when he was replaced by the Reverend Earle M. Ellsworth on October 5, 1913. It was during the pastorate of Earle M. Ellsworth that the record Men's Bible Class was organized. The teacher of this large class, of which Lou Eyman was President, was Professor C. C. Miller. Competition developed between the men's classes of the Lancaster and Athens Methodist Episcopal Churches. The competing Sunday was set for April 18, 1915. It was arranged to have all the men's classes in the neigh-

boring churches to come to the Lancaster Church. Those without transportation were brought in by members of the Lancaster class. As the result of this endeavor, there were assembled on that Sunday at the Lancaster First M. E. Church, 1316 men, more than the church would hold. Lancaster was the winner of this competition.

Large enrollments in the Sunday School continued. On September 1, 1917, there were on the rolls of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Lancaster 1560 members. The full membership of the First Methodist Episcopal Church⁽³⁾ was 1930 members with 53 officers. (Note: this would mean that the church had 370 inactive members, or an active membership of 1560.) At this time the probable value of the church building was \$90,000.00, and the value of the parsonage \$7,000.00.

The parsonage at 328 North High Street which was occupied by the Reverend Earle M. Ellsworth for a number of years was purchased on August 31, 1917 and became the property of the First Methodist Episcopal Church. This continued to be the Methodist parsonage until August 1940.

The annual salary received by Pastor Earle M. Ellsworth was \$2,760.00, and he served the First Methodist Episcopal Church until August 1, 1918, when he was replaced by the Reverend W. C. Milliken. During the first and third years of Pastor Milliken's service to the church, the Reverend H. W. Stooddy served as his assistant. During Pastor Milliken's pastorate the Trustees of the First Methodist Episcopal Church were: L. E. Eyman, J. E. Miller, Thomas Wright, D. P. Dickson, H. B. Peters, George Reigle, C. C. Miller, Amos Thomas, and J. A. Skinner.

It was during the pastorate of N. E. Butler, from 1921 to 1923, and which followed that of W. C. Milliken, that the first Vacation Bible School was organized by Mrs. A. B. Vlerebome, the wife of A. B. Vlerebome. Mr. Vlerebome was active for years in the work of the Sunday School as superintendent.

The Reverend William T. Blume, D.D., followed N. E. Butler in the pulpit of the First M. E. Church and served until 1926 when Thomas B. Roberts became the minister. It was during the

⁽³⁾ First Methodist Episcopal Church now appears on all the official records; although no records could be found making this the official name.

pastorate of Dr. Blume the tower chimes were installed. Thomas B. Roberts remained as pastor of the First M. E. Church until 1929.

Doctor William G. Seaman assumed the pastorate at the departure of the Reverend Thomas B. Roberts and served the Lancaster Church until 1936 when he accepted a call to Athens, Ohio. It was during the pastorate of Dr. Edward F. Andree the 125th Anniversary service was held on December 12, 1937. At this anniversary service the Reverend Isaac E. Miller, D.D. gave the afternoon message. In the evening service the Reverend J. Ira Jones, D.D., the Chillicothe District Superintendent, gave the sermon. It was during this celebration the Rose Window above the east balcony was offered as the Kauffman Memorial.

In April of 1939 the three major branches of the Methodist Church met in Kansas City, Missouri, for the purpose of uniting as one church. At this meeting the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the Methodist Protestant Church united to form the Methodist Church with a membership in America of over nine million members. The unification took place May 10, 1939. When the unification was complete the youth organization which had been called "The Epworth League" now became the "Methodist Youth Fellowship". Also what had been "The Ladies Aid Society", "The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society", and "The Woman's Home Missionary Society", now became one organization to be known as "The Woman's Society of Christian Service". Their work was to encompass all the work carried on formerly by the three organizations.

On November 4, 1939, the Trustees of the First Methodist Church purchased from the executors of the Harry Giesy estate the east half of lot 130, known as 155 East Wheeling Street, for the sum of \$9,000.00 for use as a parsonage. Then, the Trustees of the First Methodist Church filed an application on December 11, 1939, for permission to sell the parish house on North High Street by private sale. Trustees signing this petition were Amos S. Thomas, Homer Danison, Roi DeLancy, Charles H. Drinkle, L. E. Eyman, Thomas C. Fulton, Paul A. Parker, Henry B. Peters and W. E. Trimmer.

On August 7, of the following year 1940, the parish house which has been the property of the First Methodist Church since 1917 and served as the parsonage for several years before becoming church property was sold to Dr. William T. Blume, a former

minister of the First Methodist Church. On retiring from the ministry, Dr. Blume made this his home. Dr and Mrs. Edward F. Andree were the first to live in the new parsonage at 155 East Wheeling Street, living there one year.

In 1941 Dr. Edward F. Andree was appointed superintendent of the Wilmington District, and Dr. Walter F. Castoe became the pastor of the First Methodist Church, coming from the Lima District Superintendency. For two years of Dr. Castoe's service to the First Methodist Church, the Reverend George Taylor served as his assistant, his principal duties were with the Methodist Youth Fellowship and parish work.

In the year 1944, the interior of the sanctuary was beautified by the installation of the present carved oak altar, lectern, and pulpit. Evelyn Castoe, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Walter P. Castoe, was the first to be married at the new altar, becoming the wife of George Taylor who had served the First Church as an assistant pastor.

In 1946, Dr. Walter P. Castoe accepted a call to the Broad Street Methodist Church in Columbus, Ohio, and George W. Herd became the pastor of the First Methodist Church, coming to Lancaster from Wapakoneta, Ohio, where he had served eight years as minister. During 1947 an effective program of training for boys and girls in preparation for church membership was begun. These classes taught by the minister, have enrolled almost 100 percent the eligible youth of the church. From its inception in 1947 and until the spring of 1962, 675 youth have come into membership through these classes.

ANOTHER PERIOD OF EXPANSION - 1950 to 1962

For some years the Trustees of the First Methodist Church had under consideration the enlarging and remodeling of the church property to meet the needs of an expanding congregation. By 1947, the second year of George W. Herd's pastorate, there was accumulated in the bank \$14,617.68 toward the building fund. During the ensuing years contributions and pledges were made toward the building fund. A building committee was chosen, consisting of Dwight Walter, as chairman; Arthur Vlerebome and Carl Wohlfarth. During the spring of 1950, contracts were signed with the builders and money was borrowed from the Lancaster

banks for the enlarging and remodeling of the First Methodist Church in Lancaster.

The enlarging and remodeling began April 25, 1950 with Kenneth Davis, the general contractor. A. H. Moellenkamp and Associates were the architectural engineers. Work progressed, and on June 30, 1950, the ceremony of the laying of the northeast cornerstone took place with Dr. George M. Wilson, District Superintendent giving the address.

Placed within this cornerstone were a Bible, 1949 membership list of the First Methodist Church, names of the new officers of the church, copies of the "Upper Room", and the "Methodist Messenger", a new Methodist Hymnal, the 1950 Camp Ground program, copy of the bulletin used for the cornerstone laying and religious educational material.

The construction and remodeling progressed rapidly. By the spring of 1951, the construction of the addition and the remodeling of the church was complete. By special gifts of many members of the congregation the rooms were furnished and equipment added and the remodeled church was ready for the Consecration. A total of \$240,000.00 had been expended for the cost of the building, and an additional \$66,000.00 was spent for equipment making the total cost \$306,000.00 for this expansion.

The Consecration service which took place during the afternoon of May 20, 1951, was called to order by Dr. George W. Herd, the pastor. Dr. Harry E. Bright, former District Superintendent, gave the Scripture lesson; Bishop Hazen G. Werner, D.D., B.D., L.L.D. led in the Consecration and presented the sermon. A prayer of Thanksgiving was given by District Superintendent, Dr. George M. Wilson. Former pastors of the church, Dr. Edward F. Andree and Dr. Wm. T. Blume gave the Invocation and the Benediction.

During the following years an outstanding effort was made to reduce the debt incurred with the building of the addition and the remodeling of the church. The membership was divided into twelve groups. These groups by various means raised money to be added to the contributions of the membership, so that by Christmas Eve of 1955 the entire debt had been paid and the church was ready for the dedication⁽¹⁾.

(1) Any building or project of the Methodist Church must be free of debt before the dedication.

The dedication program for the addition and remodeling of the First Methodist Church took place at 4 p.m. on January 22, 1956, with the burning of the mortgage in the presence of Dr. J. Otis Young, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop at that time, District Superintendent Dr. W. Carl Hickey, and the Trustees. During a period of little more than five years the congregation of the First Methodist Church had cleared a debt of \$306,000.00.

The emphasis on Youth Work became an important part of the program of the Methodist Church after the unification of the various Methodist bodies. Many projects in the field of Christian Outreach were accomplished and the influence is worldwide. Between the building of the addition and its dedication, the youth program was not neglected by the First Methodist Church of Lancaster. In June of 1950 Miss Ruby Plant was employed as the first Director of Christian Education and served for two years. The second Director of Christian Education was Miss Virginia Zuspan, who served from September 1952 until September 1954. On September 1, 1954, Mrs. E. G. (Vivienne) Clark was employed as Director of Christian Education and was still serving at the time of the 1962 celebration.

Methodist membership in Lancaster, the First Methodist Church, the Sixth Avenue Methodist Church and A. M. E. Church, stood at 2,923 at the mid-century. Since that time there has been a steady increase in the Methodist membership. So that the First Methodist Church could better serve its congregation, double worship services were put into operation in September of 1951, with services at 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. Three years later, two sessions of church school was instituted to be in session at exactly the same time as the worship services. This increased church and church school attendance considerably.

The parking problem in the vicinity of the church was becoming acute. Even with the two morning services, parking was at a premium at each service. So, when the historic Rising property, once the home of Henry Stanbery who was U. S. Attorney General under President Andrew Johnson, was offered for sale, H. C. Helser and the pastor, Dr. George W. Herd, were authorized by the Official Board, meeting on Monday night, October 21, 1957, to purchase the property. The purchase was made a few days later.



The Rising House was purchased from the Russell Rising Family by the Church in 1957. This picture is taken from the South side of the house standing on High Street looking toward the Church.

The spacious grounds to the rear and south of the Rising House was converted to a blacktop parking area. The historic house for which the Methodist Church paid \$65,000.00 was converted into church school education and meeting rooms with only minor changes which did not destroy the beauty of this house. The cost, including the purchase of the house, redecorating, furnishings and converting the portion of the grounds to a parking area, including landscaping, blacktopping, lighting, drainage, etc. totaled slightly over \$100,000.00. This amount had been paid in full by early 1962, and the dedication is to take place on December 16, 1962, during the sesquicentennial year.

The First Methodist Church of Lancaster was incorporated for the first time in March 1958, under the guidance of Attorney Kermit Sitterley.

It was during this period, between 1956 and 1960, that Methodism was expanding throughout Ohio. Bishop Hazen G. Werner, the Bishop of the Ohio Area, led the Methodists of Ohio in the financing and building of the Methodist Seminary located near Delaware, Ohio, with an initial cost of four million dollars. In this financial campaign the First Methodist Church of Lancaster gave \$25,000.00 toward the establishment of this seminary. Then, in 1961, gave a \$2,500.00 scholarship to the seminary.

The greatest achievement of the Methodist Youth Fellowship of the First Methodist Church came in the spring of 1960 when the sum of \$7500.00 was raised to provide a perpetual scholarship

at the Ohio Northern University in the name of their pastor, Dr. George W. Herd, who was serving as a trustee of the University at the time. As a surprise to Dr. Herd, the official announcement of this scholarship was made on Youth Sunday during the Sunday morning service of June 19, 1960. Miss Karen Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George (Helen) Jones, was the first to win this scholarship in 1961.

The membership of the First Methodist Church continues to grow. In June 1961 the membership of the church was 2,831 active members and 1,179 enrolled in the Church School. The value of the church property at this time is estimated at one million, five hundred thousand dollars.

THE LATEST PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

For a number of years the First Methodist Church had realized the necessity of securing more land adjoining the church, and hoped that some day they would be able to buy the three houses to the north of the church on High Street, between the church and Mulberry Street, known as the Jane Stewart Estate.

Fortunately this estate came up for sale on December 20, 1961. The Quarterly Conference had already authorized the Trustees to place a bid on the property. The Trustees appointed H. C. Helser, Chairman of the Trustees and the pastor, Dr. George W. Herd, as a committee to negotiate for the real estate mentioned above. The purchase was made at a cost of \$30,000.00 and the transaction completed on January 10, 1962.

At the time this book was printed, it was the plan of the Trustees to remove the three houses early in 1962 and establish a very attractive parking area estimated to accommodate about forty cars. Landscaping with shrubs and flowers and attractively lighting the lot will turn this corner into an asset to the town as well as the church. The estimated cost of converting this area to the church's use is placed at \$5,000.00.

It has seemed to the Methodists of this period that there is evidence of the help of a higher power leading in the needs for the future so that the Gospel of Good News, that Jesus Christ brought to this earth, can be told and retold to the present and future generations through the medium of this church.

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ROSTER OF CIRCUIT RIDERS AND PASTORS WHO SERVED THE METHODISTS OF LANCASTER

*The Lancaster Methodist Episcopal Church
and the First Methodist Church*

In the early days of the Methodist Society of Lancaster the early ministers were circuit riders and served several congregations.

- 1799—James Quinn
- 1800—Jesse Stoneman
- 1801—Joseph Chenoweth
- 1802—Nathaniel B. Mills
- 1803—Asa Shinn; James Quinn
- 1804—James Quinn
- 1805—John Meek; James Ashley
- 1806—Peter Cartwright
- 1807—William Paterson
- 1808—Ralph Lotspeich; John Bowman
- 1809—Ralph Lotspeich
- 1810—Francis Travis
- 1811—James B. Finley
- 1812—William Lambden
- 1813—Archibald McElroy
- 1814—Charles Waddle
- 1815—Charles Waddle; Michael Ellis
- 1816—James Quinn; John McMahon
- 1817—John McMahon; Michael Ellis
- 1818—Sadosa Bacon; Peter Stephens
- 1819—Abner Gough; Henry Matthews
- 1820—Thomas A. Morris
- 1821—Joseph Carper
- 1822—William Stevens
- 1823—James Gilruth; Isaac Hunter
- 1824—Charles Waddle; Homer Clark
- 1825—James Quinn; Leroy Swormstedt
- 1826—James Quinn; James Laws
- 1827—James Laws; Gilbert Blue
- 1828—Jacob Young
- 1829—Z. Connell; H. S. Fernandez
- 1830 to 1839—The list of preachers (ministers) serving this period is known, but the year in which they served could not be ascertained. Names in order given in list:
 - William Young
 - John Ferree
 - Edward D. Roe
 - William H. Lawder
 - Levi White
 - W. T. Snow

John J. Bruce
 Charles W. Swain
 William T. Hand
 Charles R. Baldwin
 John Reed
 Charles R. Lovell
 1840—Henry Baker
 1841—William R. Anderson
 1842—William P. Strickland
 1844—Randolph S. Foster
 1846—M. Dustin
 1847—Granville Moody
 1849—William Sutherland
 1850—Moses Smith
 1851—Ancel Brooks
 1853—N. Westerman
 1854—James M. Jameson
 1856—Ezra M. Boring
 1857—Joseph H. Creighton
 1859—William Porter
 1860—C. E. Felton
 1862—C. A. Vananda
 1864—Thomas H. Phillips
 1866—L. Taft
 1868—B. N. Spahr
 1870—Thomas R. Taylor
 1873—Joseph H. Creighton
 1874—T. W. Stanley
 1877—J. T. Miller
 1880—Orville J. Nave
 1882—Wm. P. McLaughlin
 1885—J. M. Weir
 1887—J. T. Miller
 1890—John W. Dillon
 1895—William L. Slutz
 1897—Charles C. Elson
 1907—Harry B. Lewis
 1910—Charles B. Pyle
 1913—Homer P. Ivey (part of year)
 1913—Earle M. Ellsworth
 1918—W. C. Milliken; H. W. Stood, Assistant
 1919—W. C. Milliken
 1920—W. C. Milliken; H. W. Stood, Assistant
 1921—N. E. Butler
 1924—William T. Blume
 1926—Thomas B. Roberts
 1929—William G. Seaman
 1936—Edward F. Andree
 1941—Walter P. Castoe
 1943-1944—George Taylor, Assistant
 1946—George W. Herd

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

of The First Methodist Church

Lancaster, Ohio

June 1, 1961 to June 1, 1962

Hazen G. Werner, A.B., B.D., L.L.D.	Bishop
44 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio	
Stanley Jeffery, Ph.B., B.D., D.D.	District Superintendent
152 East Mulberry Street, Lancaster, Ohio	
George W. Herd, A.B., B.D., D.D.	Pastor
155 East Wheeling Street, Lancaster, Ohio	
Mrs. Ralph I. (Edna) Westenbarger	Financial Secretary
Mrs. E. G. (Vivienne) Clark	Director of Christian Education
Miss Dorothy Himes and Mrs. Mary Orr	Pastor's Assistants
Mr. Milton M. Binder	Supervisor of the Care and Maintenance of the Church Building
Mrs. Mark (Grace) Nigh	Supervisor of the Care and Maintenance of the Rising House
Mr. Donald Bowman	Supervisor of the Parking Area

PART TIME EMPLOYEES:

Music—Organists: Mrs. Vaneta Justus and Mrs. Samuel
(Dorothy) LeFever

Choir Directors: Mrs. Maynard (Dana Mary) Mc-
Churg, Mr. David D. Tschiegg,
Mrs. Hiram (Lois) Lepley

Youth Work—Mr. and Mrs. Harry (Margaret) Hill,
Senior Youth Fellowship
Mr. and Mrs. William (Betty) Sisson,
Ninth Grade Fellowship
Mr. and Mrs. Jean (Peggy) Virden,
Seventh and Eighth Grade Fellowship

TRUSTEES - First Methodist Church, Incorporated:

1959-1962—H. C. Helser, Samuel Primmer, Dwight Talbott
1960-1963—Wade Cozad, Ralph Westenbarger, Max Miller
1961-1964—Stanley Risch, W. F. Wacker, Francis King
(Chairman, H. C. Helser; Treasurer, John A. Lutz; Secretary,
Mrs. Paul (Mary Jane) Joos)

STEWARDS:

1959-1962—Ralph Bryson, Harvey Calvert, Hubert Huddle,
Edward Yester, Carl Wohlfarth, Wade Fairfield, Mrs. Fred
(Florence) Lewis, Mrs. Don (Helen) Hempleman, Mrs. John
(Helen) Richards, Mrs. Edna Thimmes, Mrs. Eugene
(Marie) Bope, Charles Richardson, Clair Bardo, Carl Fos-
naugh, Merlyn McInturf, Howard Nixon, Lee Earle, Mrs.
Russell (Gladys) Beougher, Catherine Gillespie, Mrs. Ralph
(Anna Mary) Bryson* Mrs. Ola Rittgers, Mrs. C. F. (Juani-
ta) VanGundy, Mrs. Don (Jean) Stuck.

* Elected to fill a one year vacancy or a one year unexpired term.

* Elected in 1961 to fill vacancies.

Mrs. Richard (Alice) McClintock.....
 Recording Secretary of the Quarterly Conference

Mrs. Ralph L. (Edna) Westenbarger.....Financial Secretary

John A. Lutz.....Treasurer of Current Expense

Mrs. Samuel (Dorothy) LeFever.....Treasurer of Benevolence

Hiram Wilson.....Church School Superintendent

Mrs. E. G. (Vivienne) Clark.....
 Lay Delegate to the Ohio Annual Conference (1961-1965)

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde (Thelma) Moore
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph (Alleine) Lavelle....Communion Stewards

Miss Dorothy Himes.....District Steward

Mrs. James (Flora) Radebaugh.....Reserve District Steward

John A. Lutz.....Church Lay Leader

Miss Dorothy Himes.....Director of Stewardship

Mrs. Mary Orr, Wade Fairfield,
 Mrs. Ralph L. (Edna) Westenbarger.....Trier of Appeals

John A. Lutz.....Treasurer of Rising Fund, Chimes Fund,
 Communion Fund, Leiby Fund

John A. Lutz.....Custodian of Legal Papers

Lock Box, Fairfield National Bank.....Place Legal Papers are kept

Mrs. George (Mary Lee) Snead.....
 President of the Woman's Society of Christian Service

Donald Sisson.....President of the Youth Fellowship

H. C. Helser.....President of the Methodist Men's Organization

Commission on Education

Hiram Wilson.....	Chairman of the Commission and Church School Superintendent
Howard Martin.....	Assistant Church School Supt. (first session)
William Sisson.....	Assistant Church School Supt. (second session)
Mrs. E. G. (Vivienne) Clark.....	Director of Christian Education
John A. Lutz.....	Church Lay Leader
Wesley Graham.....	Church School Secretary-Treasurer
Mrs. Cloyd (Patty) Householder.....	Assistant Church School Secretary-Treasurer
Miss Dorothy Himes.....	Superintendent of Membership Cultivation
Miss Roberta Hutsler.....	Superintendent of Nursery Department
Mrs. Dwight (Clara) Walter.....	Superintendent of Kindergarten
Miss Jeannette Singrey.....	Superintendent of Primary Department
Mrs. William (Eleanor) Jasper.....	Superintendent of the Junior Department
Ralph Westenbarger.....	Superintendent of the Adult Department
Mr. and Mrs. Harry (Margaret) Hill.....	Directors of Senior High M. Y. F.
Mr. and Mrs. William (Betty) Sisson.....	Directors of Junior High M. Y. F.
Mr. and Mrs. Jean (Peggy) Virden.....	Directors of the Seventh and Eighth Grade M. Y. F.
Don Sisson.....	M. Y. F. Representative*
Mrs. Don (Betty) Bowman.....	W. S. C. S. Representative*
Mrs. Don (Betty) Bowman.....	W. S. C. S. Secretary of Children's Work*

Members-at-large on the Commission:

1959-1962—Hiram Lepley, Willard Smith

1960-1963—Mrs. Gail (Opal) Wacker, Clark Pearce

1961-1964—Mrs. Karl (Esther) Henderson, Charles Smith

Representatives to Ohio Annual Conference—1961.....
Don Sisson and Bill Jasper

Commission on Finance

H. C. Helser, Ray Jewell, Ray Wise, David Ward, Homer Lutz

Commission on Missions

Charles Burnworth, Mrs. Winfred (Una Hoy) Fosnaugh, Karl Henderson, Mabel Evans, Mrs. J. W. (Goldie) Fritz, Mrs. George (Mary) Ent, Mariam Thimmes

Commission on Christian Social Concerns

Ralph Bryson, Mrs. David (Thelma) Ward, Mrs. Nelson (Norah) Embrey

*To be elected by the organizations and confirmed by the Quarterly Conference

Committee on Audit

Gene Ash, Lancaster, Ohio

Committee on Membership and Evangelism

Mrs. E. G. (Vivienne) Clark, Mrs. Mary Orr, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. William Barnhart, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wilt, Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Lepley, Mr. and Mrs. Don Hartwell, Mrs. Andrew Patrick, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Bope, Mr. and Mrs. David Ward, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Nigh, Mrs. Bessie Breckenridge, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Fosnaugh, Mr. and Mrs. John Bretz, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Metzger, Mr. and Mrs. John Garber, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Henderson, Dr. and Mrs. Jacob Sims, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Payne, Mrs. Paul Powers

Committee on Pastoral Relations

Ray Wise, Mrs. E. G. Clark, H. C. Helser, Mrs. Lee Earle, Mrs. Richard McClintock, Wade Cozad, Wade Fairfield, Mrs. Marjorie Buchanan, Dwight Talbott

Committee on Nominations - 1962

Mrs. Lon Trip, Mrs. Rose Strong, Mrs. Pauline Powers, Mrs. Mark Nigh, Mrs. Donna Noice

Commission on Vocations

Mr. and Mrs. Harry (Margaret) Hill, Mr. and Mrs. William (Betty) Sisson, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel (Dorothy) LeFever

Commission on Hospitals and Homes

Mrs. Clarence (Esther) Keller, Mrs. Charles (Rose) Shotts, Mrs. William (Ruth) Leyshon, Mrs. Paul (Veda) Porter, Miss Blanche Stewart

Music Committee for the Senior Choir

Dan Gilkey, Mrs. Ray (Helen) Wise, Mrs. Ruth Fuller, Carl Fultz, Howard Waugh, Mrs. Clarence (Esther) Keller

Committee on Temperance

Mrs. William (Helen) Coultrap, Mrs. William (Elsie) Barnhart, Mrs. William (Marie) Pickering

Building Fund Committee

Dr. George W. Herd, Pastor; John A. Lutz, Treasurer; Mrs. Richard (Alice) McClintock, Secretary; Mrs. E. G. (Vivienne) Clark, Mrs. Mary Orr, Stanley Risch

*Committee on History of the Church
for the 150th Year Celebration*

Mr. Charles Goslin

*Committee on Newspaper Publicity
for the 150th Year Celebration*

Mrs. Elizabeth Young and Mrs. Ruth Fuller

*Committee on Ushering and Receiving Offering
at 8:45 a.m. Worship Service*

Edward Cowden, Chairman;

Main Floor: Edward Cowden, Robert Buchanan, David Ward,
John Bretz, William Sisson, Roger Engle, John W. Clark, Jr.,
Don Hartwell

Balcony: Charles Barker, James Eggert, Roy Longnecker, Ralph
Bryson, Robert Baus

*Committee on Receiving Offering
at 10:30 a.m. Worship Service*

A. H. Moellenkamp, Chairman;

Main Floor: David Godown, H. C. Helser, Ray Wise, Joseph
Pfeffer, Raymond Boyer, Kenneth Wetzel, John Lutz

Balcony: Eugene Miller, Marion Nihiser, James Radebaugh,
Hiram Wilson

*Committee on Ushering
at the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service*

Ray Jewell, Chairman

Main Floor: Carl Wohlfarth, Homer Lutz, H. C. Helser, Ray
Wise, Ray Lentz, John Lutz

Balcony: The same persons receiving the offering in the balcony

Communion Ushers

6:00 a.m.—Wade Fairfield, Chairman; Walter Patterson, Herbert
Frasure

8:45 a.m.—Same regular ushers as at the 8:45 a.m. services

10:30 a.m.—Dwight Talbott, Chairman; John Lutz, Hiram Wil-
son, Ray Jewell

5:00 p.m.—Alton Scarborough, Chairman; Don Hartwell, Merrill
Pairan, Robert Buchanan

7:30 p.m.—Same ushers as at the 10:30 a.m. Communion Service

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1961-1962

Adopted by the Finance Commission, April 17, 1961

Pastor's Salary.....	\$ 9,500.00
Pastor's Expense.....	1,000.00
Pastoral Assistants.....	7,150.00
Secretary.....	3,500.00
Caretaker.....	3,000.00
Postage and Printing.....	1,800.00
Office Supplies.....	500.00
Literature.....	300.00
Music.....	3,300.00
Bulletins.....	600.00
Repairs and Maintenance Supplies.....	2,000.00
Insurance.....	1,800.00
Utilities.....	4,800.00
District Expense.....	933.00
Conference Expense.....	4,442.00
Vacation Church School.....	350.00
Incidentals and Miscellaneous.....	1,000.00
Taxes.....	350.00
<hr/>	
TOTAL.....	\$46,325.00

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR

June 1, 1960 to June 1, 1961

CURRENT EXPENSES

Receipts

Old Balance, June 1, 1960.....	\$ 3,404.78
Offering from Church Envelopes.....	53,808.53
Loose Offering.....	3,687.53
Special Receipts.....	8,222.18
Total Receipts.....	<u>\$69,123.02</u>

Expenses

Salaries	
Pastor.....	\$9,500.00
Pastor's Assistant.....	5,844.44
Dir. Christian Education.....	3,500.00
Secretary.....	3,500.00
Caretaker.....	3,000.00
Total Salaries.....	<u>\$25,344.44</u>

Music:	
Salaries.....	\$3,383.25
Literature.....	210.33
Organ Maintenance.....	125.00
Total Music.....	<u>3,718.58</u>

Utilities:	
Gas.....	\$2,442.45
Electricity.....	2,711.97
Water and Sanitation.....	337.85
Telephones.....	421.39
Total Utilities.....	<u>5,913.66</u>

Taxes on Parsonage.....	330.76
Insurance.....	2,842.30
Repairs and Maintenance.....	2,368.83
Bulletins.....	684.00
Postage and Printing.....	1,819.04
Office Supplies and Expense.....	434.04

District Expense.....	\$ 980.00	
Conference Expense.....	4,878.00	
Miscellaneous and Incidentals.....	893.63	
Pastor's Expense Account.....	1,000.00	
Literature.....	415.60	
Vacation Church School.....	350.00	
Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter Expenses	1,168.09	
Conference Items:		
Fellowship of Suf'ing & Ser....	\$ 200.00	
Hospitalization.....	347.85	
Lakeside Crusade.....	262.00	
Advance Specials.....	1,018.00	
Allied Action		
(Hospitals and Homes)....	1,218.00	
Theological School.....	250.00	
Scholarship Fund—		
Theological Seminary....	2,500.00	
Total Conference Items.....	5,795.85	
Building Improvements.....	8,000.90	
Total Expenses.....		66,937.72
Balance as of May 31, 1961.....		\$ 2,185.30

REPORT ON BUILDING FUND

as of May 1, 1961

Balance on hand April 18, 1960.....	\$ 2,889.96
Receipts from organized groups.....	\$10,776.13
Receipts from pledges not designated	
to any particular group.....	5,620.06
Receipts from Men's Election Dinner.....	1,464.14
Receipts from General Church Fund.....	2,000.00
Receipts from W. S. C. S.....	1,000.00
Receipts from Minnie B. Webb Estate.....	100.00
Receipts from Martha E. Lott Estate.....	500.00
Total Receipts.....	21,460.33
Total Monies Received.....	\$24,350.29
Total Disbursements.....	21,975.28
Balance on hand May 1, 1961.....	\$ 2,375.01

Summary of Disbursements:

Paid on Rising House Mortgage.....	\$19,299.90
Interest Paid.....	1,900.10
Paid for furnishings, equipment, etc.....	775.28

Total Disbursements.....\$21,975.28

Total Indebtedness on Rising House April 18, 1960.....\$46,449.50

Total Indebtedness on Rising House May 1, 1961..... 27,149.60

I would like to commend our Pastor and Membership for all that has been accomplished this past year.

Signed: John A. Lutz,
Treasurer, Building Fund

PASTOR'S REPORT

to the Ohio Annual Conference for Benevolence

June 1, 1960 to June 1, 1961

World Service and Conference Benevolence.....	\$ 5,575.00
Advance Specials.....	1,939.00
Advance Specials (Ohio Conference Related).....	1,871.00
Seminary for Ohio at Delaware, Ohio (Paid on pledges)	1,825.00
Scholarship Gift to Ohio Theological Seminary.....	2,500.00
Week of Dedication (General Mission Work).....	200.00
Woman's Society of Christian Service (For Missions)....	3,714.00
Fellowship of Suffering and Service (World Wide Communion).....	200.00
Church School Rally Day (for General Education in Conference).....	95.00
Methodist Youth Fund (Methodist Missionary Giving)	350.00
Methodist Youth Special Giving toward Jeep for Missionary Work in Korea.....	140.00
Pension Fund (Support for Ohio Conference Pension Fund).....	3,370.00
United Approach for Methodist Colleges and Wesley Foundation.....	1,200.00
Allied Action (Support for our Hospitals and Homes)...	1,905.00
Chillicothe District Total Support.....	980.00
Episcopal Support (General Church of U S. A.).....	376.00
Conference Claimants (Support for Retired Ministers)...	2,612.00
Paid by Local Minister for Support of Ministers on Lower Salaries serving smaller churches.....	200.00

Paid by Our Church to Support of Ministers on	
Lower Salaries serving smaller churches.....	\$ 459.00
Hospitalization of Church Staff.....	454.80
Ohio Conference Administrative Expense Fund.....	883.00
Annual Conference Expense and Program Expense.....	548.00
Board of Temperance of Ohio.....	50.00
The Ohio Northern University	
Dr. George W. Herd Scholarship Fund, given by	
the Congregation, honoring Dr. Herd, to support	
Youth attending Ohio Northern University.....	7,500.00
Lakeside Crusade (Support for Lakeside Development)	262.00
Other Benevolence and Miscellaneous Giving.....	603.00
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Total Benevolence Giving.....	\$39,811.00

SPECIAL FUNDS

Savings Account.....	\$12,729.62
Communion Fund.....	981.59
(Offerings made at each Communion Service and used for local charity)	
Chimes Fund.....	233.40
(Contributed by Charles Towson, deceased, for the upkeep of the Tower Chimes)	
Leiby Fund.....	1,000.00
(A Legacy from the Wm. and Mary Leiby Estate; interest is used for Current Expense)	
Government Bonds.....	500.00

BOY SCOUTS

Troop No. 115

E. George Clark.....	Scoutmaster
George Snead.....	Assistant Scoutmaster
Committee Members—Albert Aebersold, Chairman; James Cassell, Lynn Morse, Bert Hayslip, Robert Baus, Fred Blosser	
Clark Pearce.....	Institutional Representative

WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Officers for 1961-1962

President.....	Mrs. George Snead
Vice-President.....	Mrs. Charles Rawlins
Secretary.....	Mrs. Albert Aebersold
Treasurer.....	Mrs. Hiram Lepley
Secretaries—	
Promotion.....	Mrs. Jack McClenaghan
Missionary Education.....	Mrs. Ross Grant
Spiritual Life.....	Mrs. Fred Brengman
Christian Social Relations.....	Mrs. Roy Longnecker
Student Work.....	Mrs. Ward Halteman
Youth Work.....	Mrs. E. G. Clark, Mrs. Harry Hill
Children's Work.....	Mrs. Don Bowman
Literature and Publications.....	Mrs. Raymond Schriener
Supply.....	Mrs. Chester Swett
Historian.....	Mrs. R. C. Smart
Membership.....	Mrs. Francis King
Local Church Activities.....	Mrs. Melvin Johnson
Get-well.....	Mrs. E. B. Graham
Representative to Church School Board.....	Mrs. Don Bowman
Honorary Vice-President of District.....	Mrs. Stanley Jeffery

Circle Chairmen for 1961-1962

Anna Embich Whiley Circle.....	Mrs. George Herd
Elizabeth Simester No. 1.....	Mrs. Richard Blosser
Elizabeth Simester No. 2.....	Mrs. E. D. Rutherford
Emma Denton.....	Mrs. Joseph Gehres
Ewha.....	Mrs. Charles Goslin
Laura Rice Seaman.....	Mrs. John H. Richards
Mary Thomas.....	Mrs. A. M. Bigham
O-Te-Tiana.....	Mrs. Gayle Riegel
Ruth Circle.....	Mrs. Max Giles
Susannah Wesley.....	Mrs. John Clark
Theta Delta.....	Mrs. Wade Cozad
Wesleyan Service Guild, President.....	Miss Grace Griffith

ALTAR GUILD OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

January 1, 1962 to January 1, 1963

- Honorary Chairman.....Mrs. Thomas C. Fulton
Chairman.....Mrs. Nelson R. Embrey
Vice-Chairman.....Mrs. Wilford Nusbaum
Secretary.....Mrs. Jacob Sims
Treasurer.....Miss Dorothy Westenbarger
Altar Supply Committee—Mrs. Wilford Nusbaum, Mrs. Ward Halteman, Mrs. Thomas Fulton
Matrons for Altar Boys—Mrs. Carlton Shank, Mrs. Merlin Parent, Mrs. Robert Logue, Mrs. Edward Rutherford, Mrs. Gilbert McNeilan, Mrs. Carl Canary, Mrs. Darley Woodgeard, Jr., Mrs. Ross Grant
Special Flower Committee—Mr. and Mrs. Wade Cozad, Mrs. Lee Earle, Mrs. Edward Ray, Mr. and Mrs. William Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Beougher, Mrs. Irvine G. Smith, Mrs. Wade Fairfield, Mrs. Arthur Darbaker, Mrs. Cloyd D. McIntyre, Mrs. Reginald Pryor, Miss Marian Raab, Mrs. Haskell Manes, Mrs. Robert Wilkins
Contact Committee—Mrs. Don Wendel, Mrs. C. P. Swett, Mrs. A. W. Radebaugh
Notes—Mrs. Francis Noecker, Mrs. Earl Keaton, Mrs. Hubert Amstutz, Mrs. Lowell Edwards
Nominating Committee—Mrs. Earl Carr, Mrs. Eugene Thimmes, Mrs. Howard Waugh
Committees for each month—
January—Mrs. Robert Fox, Mrs. Charles Drinkle, Mrs. Kermit Sitterley
February—Mrs. Jacob Sims, Mrs. Eugene Thimmes, Mrs. David Vance, Mrs. James M. Lantz
March—Mrs. Paul Porter, Mrs. Ward Halteman, Miss Dorothy Ent
April—Mrs. Harold Metzger, Mrs. Howard Waugh, Mrs. Robert Johnston
May—Mrs. Fred Spangler, Mrs. Robert Payne, Mrs. James Potter
June—Mrs. John Kistler, Mrs. John Lutz, Mrs. Charles Richardson
July—Mrs. Adolph Raab, Mrs. Neil Raybourne, Mrs. Roger Engle
August—Mrs. William Pickering, Mrs. Richard Lerch, Mrs. Ralph Miesse
September—Mrs. Don Runkle, Miss Florence Branum, Miss Grace Griffith
October—Miss Beulah Scott, Mrs. C. C. Pruit, Mrs. Earl Carr
November—Mrs. Thurman Courtright, Mrs. J. E. Brown, Mrs. John Huddle
December—Mrs. Thomas Fulton, Mrs. Wilford Nusbaum, Mrs. Nelson Embrey

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE AND BUDGET - 1961-1962

Chairman.....Charles Notestine
 Vice-Chairman.....Robert Hughes
 Secretary.....David Martens
 Treasurer.....Edward Wiseman

Members:

Term expiring June 30, 1962

Jack Boerstler, Nile Baker, Russell Mills, Dave Martens, Edward Wiseman

Term expiring June 30, 1963

Dick England, Fred Lacey, Robert Hughes, Charles Wagner, Paul Lambright

Term expiring June 30, 1964

John Bretz, Don Garrett, Charles Notestine, Bill Boerstler, George Zelder

Softball—

League Fee.....	\$ 65.00	
Equipment.....	150.00	
		\$ 215.00

Younger Little League: 9 and 10 years old (2 teams)—

League Fee (\$75.00 each).....	\$150.00	
Equipment.....	125.00	
		275.00

Older Little League: 11 and 12 years old (2 teams)—

League Fee.....	\$150.00	
Equipment.....	125.00	
		275.00

Junior "A" Baseball: 13-15 years old (2 years)—

League Fee.....	\$150.00	
Equipment.....	175.00	
		325.00

Intermediate Basketball: (1 team)—

(Approximate cost if there should be a league)

League Fee.....	\$ 50.00	
Entry Fee.....	90.00	
Equipment and Misc.....	200.00	
		340.00

Bowling (1 team)—

League Fee.....	\$ 25.00	
Equipment.....	45.00	
		70.00

Total Budget.....	\$1,500.00
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PROGRAM FOR THE 150th YEAR CELEBRATION

Lancaster First Methodist Church - 1812 to 1962

General Rules

1. All members of the present Official Board remain on committees throughout the celebration year of 1962, regardless of the fact that they may be due to be rotated off the Board in June 1962. (Rotation will continue as usual but committee membership on the Celebration Program will continue to the end of 1962.)
2. The W.S.C.S., the M.Y.F. and the Christian Education programs will finance their own celebrations in their own way, and keep in their treasuries whatever profits might remain after celebration costs are met.
3. All other money collected through special offerings, book sale, dinner, etc., in excess of the needs of expenses to promote that program, will go into the Building Fund.
4. The 150th Anniversary Book shall contain the history, the detailed program of February 11, and a calendar of the year's program, naming chairmen and date of program.
5. No committee shall change the date of its program, without consultation with the pastor and the secretary's office.
6. Each member of the Official Board shall serve on one of the committees.

Committees on General Promotion

Publicity Committee—Mrs. Elizabeth Young, Mrs. Ruth Fuller
History—Charles Goslin

Publication of the Year Book—Charles Goslin, Mrs. Ralph L.
Westenbarger and Mrs. E. G. Clark

Ex-officio General Chairman—Dr. George W. Herd

PROGRAMS

1. Opening Celebration Program—February 11; Chairman: the Pastor
2. Father-Son Banquet—Tuesday, February 13; Chairman: John A. Lutz
3. Shrove Tuesday Dinner—March 6th; Metzger-Nigh Group
4. Regular Programs from Ash Wednesday, March 7 through Easter
5. W.S.C.S. Special Programs between Easter and June 1; Chairman: Mary Lee Sneed
6. Evening Program of Ninth Grade M.Y.F.—April 8; Chairmen: Mr. and Mrs. William (Betty) Sisson
7. Family Week—May 6-13;
May 6—7th and 8th Grade M.Y.F. Program; Chairmen: Mr. and Mrs. Jean (Peggy) Virden
May 13; Mother's Day
8. May 20; Aldersgate Sunday celebrating John Wesley's Heart Warming Experience on May 24, 1738
9. May 24-25-26; Risch-Brown-Buchanan Group Annual Sale at the Fair Ground Round Barn
10. The Senior Choir Program—June 10; Director: Mr. David D. Tschiegg
11. June 15; The Barker Group Annual Social on the parking lot area.
12. The Senior M.Y.F. Day—June 17; Chairmen: Mr. and Mrs. Harry (Margaret) Hill
13. The Wesley Choir Program—June 24th; Director: Mrs. Hiram (Lois) Lepley
14. Building Fund Group Recognition Day—July 8

15. Ohio Conference Lab-School—July 8-13; under the direction of the Christian Education Department
16. Christian Education Week—September 30 to October 7; Chairman: Mrs. E. G. (Vivienne) Clark
17. World Wide Communion—October 7
18. Layman's Day—October 21; Chairman: John A. Lutz, Lay Leader
19. Election Night Dinner—November 6; General Chairman: H. C. Helser
20. Special Thanksgiving Eve Service—November 21; Chairman: the Pastor
21. 150th Anniversary Advent Season begins—December 2; Chairman: the Pastor
22. Senior M.Y.F. Christmas Play in the evening—December 2; Chairmen: Mr. and Mrs. Harry (Margaret) Hill
23. December 6-7; Garden Club invited to have their show in the church basement
24. Youth Choirs Evening Program—December 9; Director: Mrs. Maynard (Dana Mary) McClurg (W.S.C.S. sponsorship)
25. Trustees Day from 3 to 4 p.m.—December 16; Chairman: H. C. Helser
 - (a) Program from 2:30 p.m.
Goals for that day: The burning of the mortgage on the Rising House and the Dedication of the Rising House.
 - (b) Smorgasbord Dinner from 4:30 to 8 p.m.; Chairmen: Mr. and Mrs. Samuel (Nellie) Primmer. (600 people, maximum to be served; price \$2.50 per ticket)
26. 150th Anniversary Christmas Eve Celebration—December 24; Chairman: the Pastor
27. December 30 (Sunday); Theme: "We Look to the Future"

SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

1812 - 1862

Sunday, February 11, 1962 - 7:30 p. m.

Chairman—Dr. George W. Herd, Pastor

Organ Prelude—*“The Finale”* from the 4th Symphonie Widor
Mrs. Vanetta Justus, Organist

Processional Hymn—*“The Church’s One Foundation”* No. 381

The Declaration of Faith: Third Affirmation of Faith Page 512

The Lord’s Prayer

Anthem—*“Praise To the Lord”* Christiansen
Senior Choir—Mr. David D. Tschiegg, Director

Responsive Reading: Third reading, back of hymnal Page 633
Dr. Stanley Jeffery, leading
Superintendent of the Chillicothe District

The Scripture Lesson Dr. Edward F. Andree
Former Pastor, Cincinnati, Ohio

The Prayer Dr. W. Carl Hickey
Former District Superintendent - June 1954 to June 1960 - Columbus, Ohio

Hymn—*“O, for a thousand tongues to sing”* No. 162

Offertory—*“Cantabile”* Franck
Mrs. Vanetta Justus, Organist

Offertory Prayer Dr. Stanley Jeffery

Address—*“The History of Methodism in Lancaster
and Fairfield County”* Mr. Charles Goslin
Historian and Naturalist; a member of our church

Hymn—*“Lead on, O King Eternal”* No. 278

Anthem—*“Bless This House”*
Combined St. Cecilia and Methodist Girl Choirs
Mrs. Maynard (Dana Mary) McClurg, Director
Mrs. Samuel (Dorothy) LeFever, Organist

Address Dr. S. Lee Whiteman
Administrative Assistant to the Bishop of the Ohio Area

Anthem—*“The Hallelujah Chorus”*
Combined Senior and Wesley Choirs
Mr. David D. Tschiegg, Director
Mrs. Vanetta Justus, Organist

Silent Choir Recessional for all choirs (Congregation remain standing)

The Benediction Dr. W. Carl Hickey

Organ Postlude

Quiet meditative organ music coming from the Little Chapel is furnished by Mrs. Wade (Edna Mae) Fairfield from 7-7:30 p.m. on the Hammond Spinnet organ.

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